

DECISION TREE FOR CHILDREN DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

- I. Purpose and Issues:** The purpose of this decision tree is to guide screeners in obtaining certain information about children who arrive in Wisconsin as a result of the evacuation of portions of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Because we do not know what types of individuals will be in positions to screen children and, in some cases, their families or other adults, we are not indicating when this information should be obtained. Some information should be obtained at the airport as the children arrive; some information can be gathered later when children are relocated to the State Fair Park or other identified shelter.

Decisions will need to be made regarding the following:

- Who will gather the information described below?
- When will it be gathered?
- How will it be gathered?
- Where will it be maintained?
- Who will have access to the information and for what purposes?

II. Information to be Gathered:

1. Basic Information
 - Child's name
 - Child's race (If possible, please identify if the child is Indian.)
 - Child's gender
 - Child's age and DOB
 - Physical description (including height and weight; hair and eye color; scars, tattoos and other marks; etc.)
 - Child's most recent school and grade level
 - Name of child's teacher
 - Social Security Number
 - Photograph of child
 - Name of child's parent/caregiver
2. Determination of whether child is:
 - With parent
 - With relative
 - With another caretaking adult
 - Alone
 - Alone with siblings
 - Listed on the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
3. Health screen, including need for a medical placement (e.g., hospital) and access to health insurance (including MA):
 - Physical health
 - Diseases/symptoms of disease
 - On medication?
 - What medication?
 - For what reason?

- Have medicine with them?
 - Need new/refilled prescription?
 - Mental health
 - On medication?
 - What medication?
 - For what reason?
 - Have medicine with them?
 - Need new/refilled prescription?
 - Developmental disability
 - Using any equipment?
 - Needing any equipment?
 - Functional ability?
 - On medication?
 - What medication?
 - For what reason?
 - Have medicine with them?
 - Need new/refilled prescription?
4. Personal history
- With whom was child living?
 - Relationship to child
 - Location/status of parent/caregiver
 - Location of any siblings and other relatives
 - Child's previous address (or just street, city, etc.)
 - Child's previous phone number
5. Need for placement
- Child is with caregiver and does not need placement
 - Child is not with caregiver and child/siblings need placement
 - Child is with a relative or can live with a relative in Wisconsin
6. Court action
- Child does not need court services
 - Child needs court services
 - CHIPS adjudication appropriate?
 - Legal custody transfer appropriate? – If so, to whom?
 - Guardianship transfer appropriate? – If so, to whom?
 - Placement
 - What type of placement?
 - Can child be placed with a relative?
 - Can child be placed in currently licensed facility?
 - Can child be placed in currently unlicensed facility (for up to 30 or 60 days)?

III. Definitions

<p>Legal custody means a legal status created by the order of a court, which confers the right and duty to protect, train and discipline the child, and to provide food, shelter, legal services, education and ordinary medical and dental care, subject to the rights, duties and responsibilities of the guardian of the child and subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities and the provisions of any court order.</p>	<p>Guardianship means a legal status created by the order of a court, which confers the duty and authority to make important decisions in matters having a permanent effect on the life and development of the child and the duty to be concerned about the child's general welfare, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authority to consent to marriage, enlistment in the U.S. armed forces, major medical, psychiatric and surgical treatment, and obtaining a motor vehicle operator's license.• Authority to represent the child in legal actions and make other decisions of substantial legal significance concerning the child but not the authority to deny the child the assistance of counsel.• The right and duty of reasonable visitation of the child.• The rights and responsibilities of legal custody except when legal custody has been vested in another person or when the child is under the supervision of the Department of Corrections or a county department.
<p>Legal custodian means a person, other than a parent or guardian, or an agency to whom legal custody of the child has been transferred by a court, but does not include a person who has only physical custody of a child.</p>	<p>Guardian means the person named by the court having the duty and authority of guardianship</p>
<p>Physical custody means actual custody of the person in the absence of a court order granting legal custody to the physical custodian.</p>	